This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for establishing a new trading relationship between new trading partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:

retrieving configuration details associated with a new ~~potential~~ trading partner from a remote site; and

automatically configuring a new trading relationship with the new ~~potential~~ trading partner using the configuration details.

Claim 2 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the retrieving comprises addressing a URL (universal resource locator) to access the configuration details.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the automatically configuring comprises:

creating a new trading partner record; and

automatically populating the new trading partner record with the configuration details.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): In an electronic commerce trading system involving exchanges of commerce information over a network, a method comprising:

collecting configuration details associated with a new trading partner participating in the commerce trading system; and

publishing the configuration details to a Web site.

Claim 5 (Original): A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the collecting comprises presenting a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

Claim 6 (Original): A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the publishing comprises posting the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the Web site is associated with the new trading partner.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method for establishing a new trading relationship between new trading partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:

creating a trading partner record for a new potential trading partner;

retrieving configuration details associated with the new potential trading partner from a remote site; and

populating the trading partner record with the configuration details retrieved from the remote site.

Claim 9 (Original): A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the retrieving comprises addressing a URL (universal resource locator) to access the configuration details posted to a Web site.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A method for establishing a trading relationship between first and second new trading partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:

collecting configuration details associated with the first new trading partner;

publishing the configuration details to a Web site;

creating, at the second new trading partner, a new trading partner record for the first new trading partner;

retrieving the configuration details associated with the first new trading partner from the Web site; and

populating the new trading partner record with the configuration details associated with the first new trading partner.

Claim 11 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the collecting comprises presenting a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration.details.

Claim 12 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the publishing comprises publishing the configuration details in XML format.

Claim 13 (Original): A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the publishing comprises posting the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

Claim 14 (Original): A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the retrieving comprises addressing the URL to access the configuration details posted to the Web site.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a first computer system at a first new trading partner;

a second computer system at a second new trading partner;

a Web site;

the first computer system collecting configuration details associated with the first new trading partner and publish the configuration details to the Web site; and

the second computer system retrieving the configuration details from the Web site and automatically configure for a trading relationship with the first new trading partner using the configuration details.

Claim 16 (Original): A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system hosts the Web site.

Claim 17 (Original): A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system presents a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

Claim 18 (Original): A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system posts the configuration details in XML format.

Claim 19 (Original): A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system posts the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

Claim 20 (Original): A system as recited in claim 19, wherein the second computer system addresses the URL to access the configuration details.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the second computer system creates a new trading partner record and automatically populates the new trading partner record with the configuration details.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A electronic commerce system, comprising:

a first component at a first new trading partner, the first component collecting configuration details associated with the first new trading partner and publishing the configuration details to a Web site; and

a second component at a second new trading partner, the second component retrieving the configuration details from the Web site and automatically configuring a trading relationship with the second new trading partner using the configuration details.

Claim 23 (Previously amended): A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the first component presents a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

Claim 24 (Previously amended): A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the first component posts the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

Claim 25 (Previously amended): A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 24, wherein the second component addresses the URL to access the configuration details.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the second component creates a new trading partner record and automatically populates the new trading partner record with the configuration details.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A software architecture for an electronic commerce system having new trading partners that exchange data over a network, comprising:

first program code stored on a computer-readable medium at a first new trading partner, the first program code having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, collect configuration details associated with the first new trading partner and publish the configuration details to a Web site; and

second program code stored on a computer-readable medium at a second new trading partner, the second program code having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, retrieve the configuration details from the Web site and automatically configure a new trading relationship with the second new trading partner using the configuration details.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): In an electronic commerce trading system involving exchanges of commerce information over a network, a computer-readable medium at a computer system participating in the commerce trading system storing computer-executable instructions for:

collecting configuration details associated with a new trading partner that participates in electronic commerce; and

publishing the configuration details to a Web site.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): In an electronic commerce trading system involving exchanges of commerce information over a network, a computer-readable medium at a computer system participating in the commerce trading system storing computer-executable instructions for:

creating a new trading partner record for a new potential trading partner that participates in electronic commerce;

retrieving configuration details associated with the new potential trading partner from a Web site; and

populating the new trading partner record with the configuration details retrieved from the Web site.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A method for establishing a new trading relationship between new trading partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:

retrieving configuration details associated with a first new ~~potential~~ trading partner from a remote site by a second potential trading partner;

retrieving configuration details associated with the second new ~~potential~~ trading partner from a remote site by the first potential trading partner; and

automatically configuring a new trading relationship with the first and the second new ~~potential~~ trading partners using the configuration details.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the retrieving comprises addressing a URL (universal resource locator) to access the configuration details of the first and the second trading partners.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the automatically configuring comprises:

creating a new trading partner record; and

automatically populating the new trading partner record with the configuration details.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A method for establishing a new trading relationship between first and second new trading partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:

collecting first and second configuration details associated with the first and the second new trading partners, respectively;

publishing the first and second configuration details to at least one Web site;

creating, at the second new trading partner, a new trading partner record for the first new trading partner;

creating, at the first new trading partner, a new trading partner record for the second new trading partner;

retrieving the configuration details associated with the first new trading partner from the Web site;

retrieving the configuration details associated with the second new trading partner from the Web site;

populating the new trading partner record of the second new trading partner with the configuration details associated with the first new trading partner; and

populating the new trading partner record of the first new trading partner with the configuration details associated with the second new trading partner.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the collecting comprises presenting a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the publishing comprises publishing the configuration details in XML format.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the publishing comprises publishing the first configuration details at a first Web site associated with the first new trading partner and the second configuration details at a second Web site associated with the second new trading partner.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the publishing comprises posting the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the retrieving comprises addressing the URL to access the configuration details posted to the Web site.

Claim 39 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a first computer system at a first new trading partner;

a second computer system at a second new trading partner;

the first computer system collecting first configuration details associated with the first new trading partner and publishing the configuration details to a first Web site;

the second computer system collecting second configuration details associated with the second new trading partner and publishing the configuration details to a second Web site;

the first computer system retrieving the second configuration details from the second Web site and automatically configuring for a new trading relationship with the first new trading partner using the second configuration details; and

the second computer system retrieving the first configuration details from the first Web site and automatically configuring for a new trading relationship with the first new trading partner using the first configuration details.